and additives including processing aids containing or consisting of genetically engineered organisms or cells, shall not be produced, sold, imported or used except with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC). Thus, import of genetically modified food requires the approval of GEAC. There is no such information available in this Ministry that huge quantities of soya oil extracted from GM seeds is imported in the country.

(d)The Ministry of Agriculture requested the Ministry of Environment and Forests to issue a notification under the Environment (Protection) Act making it binding on importers to declare whether the commodity being imported is of GM or non-GM origin, and in case of GM to obtain a necessary permit from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for its import.

(e) The Prime Minister's office convened an interministerial meeting to discuss issues in biotechnology regulation. The meeting decided that a small group be set up to review the existing structure of biotechnology regulation and suggest measures for changes, if required.

Environment Action Plan for Bangalore

350. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka Government had forwarded an Environment Action Plan for Bangalore city for consideration of his Ministry in the Ninth Plan period; and

(b) if so, whether Government had considered the proposal for clearance under the Ninth Five Year Plan; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the proposal could not be considered in the Ninth Plan period.

Rejection of Bt. cotton seeds

†351. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the produce of Bt. cotton seeds developed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.